



# NEWS RELEASE

## NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

### Utah Field Office

PO Box 25007 • Salt Lake City, UT 84125 • (801) 524-5003  
[www.nass.usda.gov/ut](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ut)



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**Contact:** John Hilton (801) 524-5003  
Joel Gentillon (801) 524-5003

### **Census of Agriculture Helps Grow Your Farm Future** *Utah Farmers – Be Counted Before It's too Late*

**SALT LAKE CITY, March 25, 2013** – Planting season is here and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is providing Utah farmers and ranchers a final chance to respond to the 2012 Census of Agriculture.

"I want to recognize the dedication and effort of the almost 14,000 farmers and ranchers in the state who have responded to the Census," said John Hilton, Utah State Statistician. "For those we have not yet heard from, there is still time to be counted. Please take a moment to complete and return your Census form today."

The Census of Agriculture, conducted only once every five years, is the only source of consistent and comprehensive agricultural data for every state and county in the nation. It looks at farms, value of land, market value of agricultural production, farm practices, expenditures, demographic data, marketing information and other factors that affect the way farmers and ranchers conduct business. The information is used by town planners, policy makers, agribusinesses and others to help make important decisions for Utah communities.

"Data and agriculture go hand in hand," said Hilton. "Whether its numbers on acreage, yield, price, inventory, rain and moisture, or expenses, producers rely on numbers – the same is true for federal, state and local decision makers. Statistics lay the groundwork for agricultural programs and policies. By responding to the Census, you are helping grow the future of your farm, your community and your industry."

NASS recently began mailing a final copy of the 2012 Census of Agriculture to producers who have not yet responded. NASS is committed to ensuring that every farm and ranch operation in Utah is counted. Therefore, representatives will make follow up telephone calls and personal visits throughout the Spring to those who have not yet responded.

Utah farmers and ranchers can return their forms online by visiting a secure website, [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov), or by mail. For helpful tips on completing your Census form call 1-888-4AG-STAT (1-888-424-7828). Federal law requires a response from everyone who receives the Census form and requires NASS to keep all individual information confidential. The Census of Agriculture is your voice, your future, your responsibility.

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